

Application Serial No. 10/076,335
Amendment A
Reply to Office Action of March 24, 2005

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

This paper is being submitted in response to the Non-Final Office Action dated March 24, 2005, having a shortened statutory period set to expire June 24, 2005, wherein:

Claims 1-20 were previously pending; and

Claims 1-20 were rejected.

Claims 1-20 have been canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of the subject matter recited therein and new claims 21-38 have been submitted for consideration. Accordingly, claims 21-38 remain currently pending in the above-identified patent application. Applicants submit that no new matter has been added by this amendment and respectfully request reconsideration of all pending claims in light of the amendments and remarks made herein.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. § 102

In the present Office Action, claims 1-20 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102(e) as being anticipated by United States Patent No. 6,300,863 issued to Cotichini, (hereinafter, "*Cotichini*"). While not conceding that the Examiner's cited references qualify as prior art but in the interest of expediting prosecution, Applicants have elected to overcome the Examiner's rejections as follows. Applicants reserve the right, for example in a continuation application, to establish that one or more of the Examiner's cited reference do not qualify as prior art with respect to the invention embodiments claimed in the above-identified application.

After careful consideration of the Examiner's rejection, Applicants' have elected to cancel all previously-pending claims and to submit new claims 21-38 for consideration. Accordingly, Applicants respectfully submit that the Examiner's rejections with respect to previously-pending claims 1-20 have been rendered moot. Applicants further submit that the Examiner's cited portions of *Cotichini* fail to teach, show, or suggest those limitations embodied within newly submitted claims 21-38 and consequently that new claims 21-38 are allowable in view of the references of record.

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Applicants further hereby request that the Examiner contact Applicants' undersigned representative to conduct an Examiner interview teleconference to discuss the applicability of *Cotichini* to the currently-submitted claims prior to the issuance of any action by the Office.

CONCLUSION

In light of the amendments and remarks made herein, Applicants submit that all pending claims are allowable and request a Notice of Allowance thereof.

No extension of time for this response is believed to be necessary. However, in the event an extension of time is required, that extension of time is hereby requested. Please charge any fee associated with an extension of time as well as any other fee necessary to further the prosecution of this application to **IBM CORPORATION DEPOSIT ACCOUNT No. 09-0447**.

Respectfully submitted,



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